

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 14, 15, 26-36 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 16 is cancelled, claims 1, 10 and 32 are amended and claims 35 and 36 are added. Support for new claims 35 and 36 can be found, for example, at paragraphs [0029] and [0030]. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 10 and 32-34. Claims 10 and 32 have been rewritten in independent form.

Claims 16 and 32-34 were objected on the grounds of informalities. Claim 16 has been cancelled and claim 32 has been amended responsive to the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-9, 11 and 26-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,580,042 to Taniguro et al. (hereinafter "Taniguro") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,712,357 to Tranquilla, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,126,347 to Sakaino et al. (hereinafter "Sakaino"); and rejects claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Taniguro in view of Tranquilla and Sakaino, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,619,451 to Dodge. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to independent claim 1, the prior art does not disclose at least "a spring that contacts with the cam follower, the cam follower being disposed between the cam member and the spring."

With respect to the dependent claims, Applicant does not concede that the prior art discloses the additional features recited therein. However, it is unnecessary to separately discuss the other dependent claims given the existence of clear distinguishing features in claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant requests the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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